

Message Text

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SUBJ: INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES COMMISSION MEETING

REF: STATE 166298

1. FOURTH SESSION OF INDIAN OCEAN FISHERY COMMISSION (IOFC)
OPENED IN MOMBASA, KENYA ON JULY 21, 1975. MORE THAN 60 TOP
FISHER OFFICIALS REPRESENTING 15 MEMBER NATIONS, OBSERVERS FROM
TWO MEMBER NATIONS OF FAO, REPRESENTATIVES FROM UNDP AND OBSERVERS
FROM 5 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WERE ASSEMBLED TO HEAR KENYAN
MINISTER OF TOURISM AND WILDLIFE, MATHEWS OGUTU, ADDRESS THE CONFERENCE.

THE MINISTER, WHO HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR FISHERIES IN KENYA,
NOTED A THEME WHICH WAS TO BE ECHOED BY MANY OF THE DELEGATES
FROM THE DEVELOPING AREAS WHEN HE STATED: "I SHOULD LIKE TO
EMPHASISE THAT THE MAIN AIM IN THESE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
SHOULD BE THE TRANSFER OF TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW AND EXPERTISE FROM
DEVELOPED NATIONS TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES."

2. THE SESSIONS WERE HELD UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHP OF NOBERT ODERO,
KENYA'S DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES, FOLLOWING A REPLY TO THE MINISTER'S
SPEECH NY ASST. DIR. GEN. (FISHERIES) OF FAO, F. E. POPPER WHO
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NOTED THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN INDIAN OCEAN,

ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF EXPECTED CHANGES IN FISHERY GEGEIMES
FOLLOWING OUTCOME OF FUTURE LOS TALKS.

3. FIRST ITEM DISCUSSED INVOLVED STATISTICAL REPORTING. IT
WAS AGREED THAT CATCH DATA, STARTING IN 1975/76 WOULD BE BROKEN
DOWN BY SUB-AREAS AND DIVISIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH A STANDARDISED
INDIAN OCEAN SPECIES LIST. TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR STATISTICIANS
WERE ANNOUNCED.

4. COASTAL AQUACULTURE: PRESENT AND FUTURE PROGRAMS OF FAO
WERE EXAMINED AND ENDORSED. CALLS WERE MADE FOR ESTABLISHMENT
OF REGIONAL COASTAL AQUACULTURE FORMS, SUB-REGIONAL TRAINING
CENTERS, AND RESEARCH INTO DEVELOPMENT, AND VIABILITY OF COASTAL
AQUACULTURE.

5. INTERNATIONAL INDIAN OCEAN FISHERY SURVEY AND DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM: (1) BUDGET HAS INCREASED FROM U.S. DOLS 2 MILLION IN
1973 TO U.S. DOLS 4.2 MILLION. (2) WORK OF PROGRAM IS CHANGING
FROM BASIC STUDIES TO SURVEY AND DEVELOPMENT. MAJOR RESOURCE
SURVEYS UNDERWAY IN ARABIAN SEA, EAST AFRICAN COAST, INDONESIAN/
AUSTRALIAN AREA, AND BAY OF BENGAL. SWEDEN (SIDA) NOW STUDYING
POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN BAY OF BENGAL; DECISION EXPECTED 3
MONTHS. RESEARCH CRUISE REPORT IN KENYA-SOMALIA WATERS AND
ARABIAN SEA BY NORWEGIAN (UNDP/NORAD) R/V DR. FRIDTJOF NANSEN WAS
DISCUSSED RAISING QUESTIONS OF FUTURE WORK NEEDED TO TRANSLATE
DATA INTO ACTUAL FISHING. EAST AFRICAN DELEGATES WELCOMED REPORT
FAO/USSR RESEARCH CRUISE BETWEEN SOMALIA AND MADAGASCAR PLANNED
FOR NOV. 75 TO NOV. 76. R/V PROF. MESYE TSEV (3,000 GRT) WITH
65 CREW AND 23 SCIENTISTS WILL BASE IN MOMBASA. TEN LOCAL
SCIENTISTS WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE ON ONE OF FOUR 75-DAY
CRUSIES. FAO SCIENTISTS INVOLVED. (NOTE: USSR DID NOT PARTICIPATE
IN MEETINGS ALTHOUGH POLAND DID.)
COMMISSION ALSO EXAMINED NEED FOR ADDITIONAL TRAINING COURSES
WHICH WOULD FOLLOW ON HEELS OF SURVEYS; NEED TO SHORTEN TIME LAG
WAS STRESSED.

6. STATE OF STOCKS AND MANAGEMENT: (A) TUNA-REPORT OF TUNA
MANAGEMENT MEETING (REPORTED PREVIOUSLY) WAS ADOPTED. (B) SHRIMP-
COASTAL STOCKS NOW HEAVILY FISHED, BUT DEEP-WATER SHRIMP STOCKS
REPRESENT GOOD POTENTIAL. MANAGEMENT MEASURES OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.
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AD HOC GROUP WAS ESTABLISHED TO MEET AT END OF 1975
TO EXAMINE RESOURCE AND REPORT FINDINGS TO IOFC. (C) POSSIBLE
DEVELOPMENT OF OIL-SARDINE FISHERY WAS EXAMINED, BUT NO MANAGEMENT
PROBLEMS WERE EXPECTED IN THIS FISHERY.

7. IPFC/IOFC SYMPOSIUM: WORK OF IOFC AND IPFC ENDORSED. BETTER
COORDINATION AND NEED TO UNDERTAKE FOLLOW-UP WORK CITED.

8 SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES: IMPORTANCE OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES WAS STRONGLY STRESSED BY MANY NATIONS WHO INDICATED NEED FOR MULTI-ASPECT DEVELOPMENT WORK... FROM RESEARCH TO FISHING, TO LANDINGS, PORTS, PROCESSING, COLD STORAGE, TRANSPORTATION, MARKETING AND CONSUMPTION. FAILURE TO CONSIDER ONE LINK IN CHAIN WOULD, IN EFFECT, WEAKEN ENTIRE PROGRAM. ROLE OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS ACKNOWLEDGED BY AID IN TRAINING FISHERMEN, EST. COOPERATIVES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS WERE STRESSED. NEED TO TRANSLATE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INTO INCREASED CATCHES REFLECTED COMMON FEELING OF DEVELOPING NATIONS.

9. OTHER: NEED TO IMPROVE COOPERATION WITH OTHER BODIES NOTED. ICCAT AND IATTC ASSISTANCE IN STATISTICAL WORK AND TRAINING PROGRAMS ACKNOWLEDGED. POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF BODY FOR WESTERN PACIFIC WAS DISCUSSED. NEED TO PROTECT COASTAL WATERS FROM OIL POLLUTION WAS EXAMINED AND SECRETARIAT WAS REQUESTED TO EXAMINE WAYS TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM IN WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN. COMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT OF GULF SHRIMP WAS ABOLISHED AS ACTIVITIES WOULD BE TAKEN OVER BY CGMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF FISHERY RESOURCES OF GULFS. FINAL COMMENTS WERE DIRECTED AT INCREASING BI-LATERAL AID PROGRAMS IN REGION.

10. DELEGATES ELECTED NORBERT ODERO, DIR. OF KENYA'S FISHERIES AS CHAIRMAN OF FIFTH SESSION OF IOFC. PROF. P. C. GEORGE (INDIA) ELECTED FIRST-VICE CHAIRMAN. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF IOFC INCLUDED ELECTION OF UNITED STATES, ALONG WITH AUSTRALIA, INDONESIA, JAPAN, MAURITIUS, QATAR (NOT PRESENT), SWEDEN AND TANZANIA.

1.. MEETING PAPERS BEING POUCHED. SECUTATE MAY WISH ROUTE TEL TO INTERESTED NATIONS. NMFS WILL RECEIVE PHOTOS WHEN RFA RETURNS CASABLANCA; MFR MAY WISH INSERT.
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